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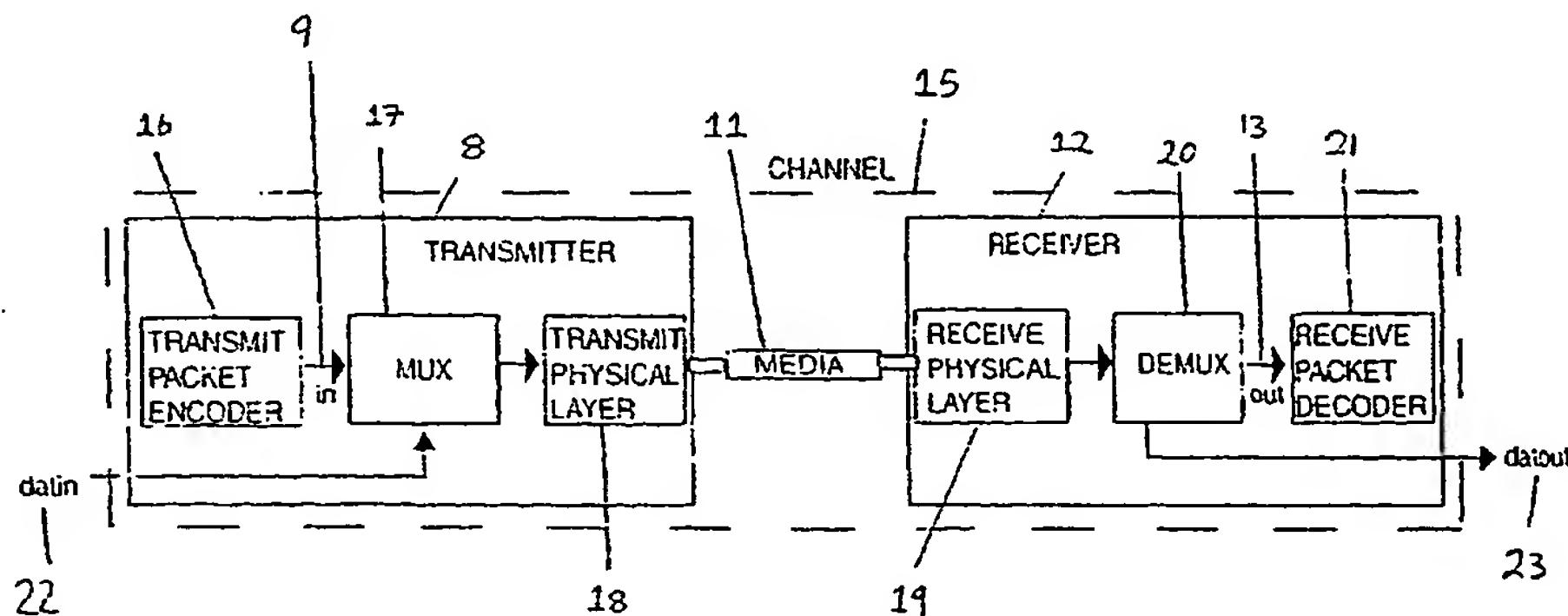
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(54) Title: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR COMMUNICATING INFORMATION WITHIN A PHYSICAL LINK LAYER



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(57) Abstract: A method and apparatus is disclosed that allows data communication within a packet based communication system by incorporating information within the physical link layer. Information is communicated from a transmitter to a receiver within the physical link layer by substituting idle data fields with input data fields. The transmitter comprises a data insertion multiplexer to generate and insert physical link layer data, and the receiver comprises a data extraction de-multiplexer to detect and extract the physical link layer data.